

Remarks

The Examiner is thanked for the Official Action dated July 02, 2002. This amendment and request for reconsideration is intended to be fully responsive thereto.

As requested by the Examiner, Applicant has attached translations of JP '716 and DE '811. Applicant has also attached a copy of EP-A-964218 mentioned at page 6 of the specification. Please acknowledge receipt and advise if any additional documents and/or other references are required by the Examiner.

Claims 1-5, 8, 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '716 and DE '811. Claims 1-5, 8, 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '636 or JP '763 or JP '615 or JP '312. Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '716 and EP '218. These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.


Firstly, the attached translations clearly support Applicant's previous arguments of novelty.

In an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicant has further amended independent claims 1 and 18 to recite the "compound heat exchanger" and define the invention over the art of record.

The embodiments of Figures 1-6 show the radiator 10 and the evaporator 20 forming part of a "compound heat exchanger comprising two fluid chambers 21 and 22 arranged on either side of a bank of tubes 23 and supplied respectively with heat-carrying fluid and with refrigerant fluid." See page 6, lines 7-12 of the specification and Figures 1-6. The prior art fails to teach or suggest this compound heat exchanger arrangement in conjunction with the other claim limitations. This combination of the compound heat exchanger with the refrigerant fluid circuit provides a uniquely compact and efficient air conditioning device that is not taught or suggested in the prior art.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments and comments resolve all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe additional discussion would advance the prosecution of the present application, they are invited to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Matthew Stavish
Reg. N° 36,286

Liniak, Berenato, Longacre & White
Suite 240
6550 Rock Spring Drive
Bethesda MD, 20817
Tel. (301) 896-0600
Fax. (703) 896-0607

APPENDIX OF AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 18 as follows.

1. (2X Amended) A device for air-conditioning a passenger compartment of a motor vehicle, comprising:

a refrigerant-fluid circuit including a compressor, a condenser serving as a heat sink and a first evaporator serving as a cold source, the device further including a heating radiator and a second evaporator and switching means for selectively routing fluid flow between one of and both the first and second evaporators depending on a required cooling power, the first and second evaporators being traversed ^o on after the other at least partly by an airflow to be cooled; wherein said heating radiator and said second evaporator form a compound heat exchanger comprising two fluid chambers arranged on either side of a bank of tubes.

18. (Amended) A device for air-conditioning a passenger compartment of a motor vehicle having a refrigerant fluid circuit comprising:

a heating radiator;

a compressor,

a condenser serving as a heat sink;

a first evaporator serving as a cold source,

a second evaporator; and

a switching mechanism disposed to selectively route fluid flow between one of and both the first and second evaporators depending on a required cooling power; wherein said heating radiator and said second evaporator form a compound heat exchanger comprising two fluid chambers arranged on either side of a bank of tubes.